



St. Michael.

The month of September is specially dedicated by christian piety to St. Michael and the holy Guardian Angels, for it is on the 29, of this month that the church celebrates the festival of this glorious Prince of the heavenly hosts. Michael-mas is mentioned among the great feasts in the Saxon Chronicles of the ninth century. It was enacted in the ecclesiastical laws of the time "that every christian, who is of age, fast three days on bread and water and raw herbs, before the feast of St. Michael, and let every man go to confession and to church barefoot," so great was the devotion in honor of the great Archangel. History informs us that Constantine the Great built a famous church, called the Michaelion, about four miles from Constantinople, where the sick often were cured and other wonders wrought through the intercession of St. Michael. Later on many churches were dedicated to him, especially those on Mount Gargano, in Italy, and upon Adrian's Mole in Rome. In our days, devotion to St. Michael has been reawakened in the hearts of Christians by our late pious Pontiff Leo XIII, when, at the very beginning of his Pontificate, he ordered a spicial invocation to be addressed to the glorious Archangel by the Catholic priests all over the world at the end of their Mass. Leo XIII knew full well that the fierce battle now raging against the Church of God all over the world is the work of that arch-enemy of God who, one day in Heaven, raised the standard of rebellion against his Creator. Who could help the church to be victorious but He who had conquered Lucifer and his angels? This angelic Patron of the Church is represented by painters under the form of a warrior,